

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for determining the effectiveness of a consumable source in a device that uses the consumable source to perform an action of the device,  
5 the system comprising:
  - a controller for monitoring the consumable source in the device;
  - a consumable source operatively connected to the device;
  - sensing means for determining when the consumable source needs replacing; and
  - 10 - an indicator operatively coupled to the sensing means that signals when the consumable source needs replacing.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the consumable source is selected from the group consisting of light sources, adhesive surfaces, and time related  
15 components.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the effectiveness of the consumable source is not discernible by a user.
- 20 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the indicator is selected from the group consisting of lights and buzzers.

5. The apparatus of claim1, wherein the sensing means comprises a timer or a sensor.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the sensing means is reset when the consumable source is replaced.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller comprises a microcontroller.